

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

12 JULY 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Ecuador

a. Military leaders have been threatening and plotting off and on for two and a half years to throw Arosemena out, but when they finally did so yesterday, it was not the culmination of any well laid plans.

b. They acted on the spur of the moment out of exasperation over another sorry spectacle the President made of himself at a reception Wednesday night, when he drunkenly attacked the US in Ambassador Bernbaum's presence.

c. The junta is made up of all the former service chiefs and, at least initially, seems to have been headed by Navy Captain Ramon Castro. These officers are vigorously anti-Communist; they say they will try to restore constitutional democracy as soon as possible.

d. Popular reaction has so far been contained, although there has been some shooting in the vicinity of the Presidential palace. The possibility of serious violence remains as better organized extremists begin to catch up with the situation. The labor confederation, with encouragement from the Communists, is talking of a general strike.

(Cont'd)

e. Martial law is being rigidly enforced, however, and the junta, though jerry-built, has been able to make a few key command changes. It has ordered a roundup of all known Communists in Quito.

f. Arosemena is sleeping it off in Panama, having been deposited there by an Ecuadorean air force plane. Vice-President Varea, roundly disliked by almost everyone, tried unsuccessfully yesterday to capitalize on the situation. He, too, has been ushered away (to Colombia).

g. Because of the incident which triggered the coup, we can expect a sizable segment of world opinion to think the US did it.

2. UAR-Yemen

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3. Cuba--Civil Air
Connections

a. Soviet TU-114 on
its way from Moscow to Havana landed
at Conakry yesterday.

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c. A group of some 40 Grand
Cayman islanders yesterday blocked
the airstrip to protest the onward
travel (to Kingston) of passengers
who arrived on a Cubana plane. They
were forced to return to Cuba.

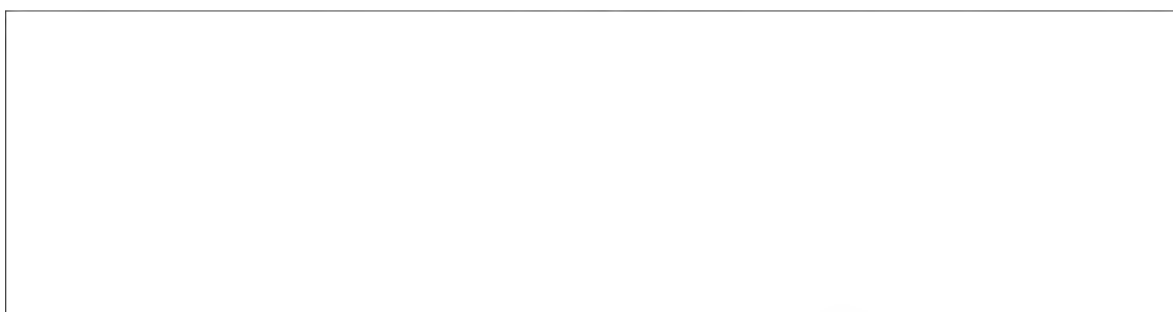
4. Laos

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c. Souvanna has Chosen Col. Somboun to replace Kong Le. While no world-beater, Somboun would have to go a long way to match Kong Le's ineptitude. His non-controversial, middle-of-the road standing among the neutralists may help pull this faction back together.

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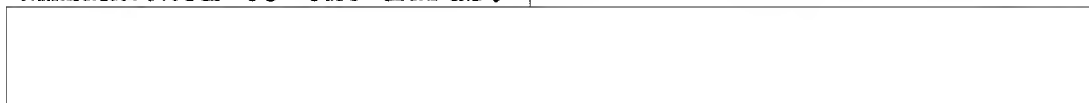
B. Sino-Soviet talks There was no meeting between the parties yesterday and if there is one today it apparently is only of lower-level technicians. What happens next is not at all clear, but we have some doubt that the Chinese will want to go on talking while Governor Harriman is in town.

C. Iraq-Iran-USSR The Iraqis, [redacted] believe the Soviets have airdropped ammunition to the Kurds. [redacted]

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D. Argentina Oscar Alende, who ran second to Illia in the Presidential race, is said [redacted] to be planning to give Illia the support he needs to win in the electoral college on 31 July. He hopes this will lead to reunification of the Radical (i.e., moderate) parties--a goal toward which he plans to work in the hope of becoming their candidate in the next Presidential elections (1969).

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E. Cuba-USSR A Soviet ship sailed from Havana for the USSR [redacted] with a number of van-body trucks and trailers aboard which appear to be associated with the SAM system. [redacted]
[redacted] With preparations under way for eventual turnover of the system to the Cubans, some withdrawal of equipment which the Soviet want to keep is to be expected.

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